



Nehru Library for Children

# Rupa the Elephant



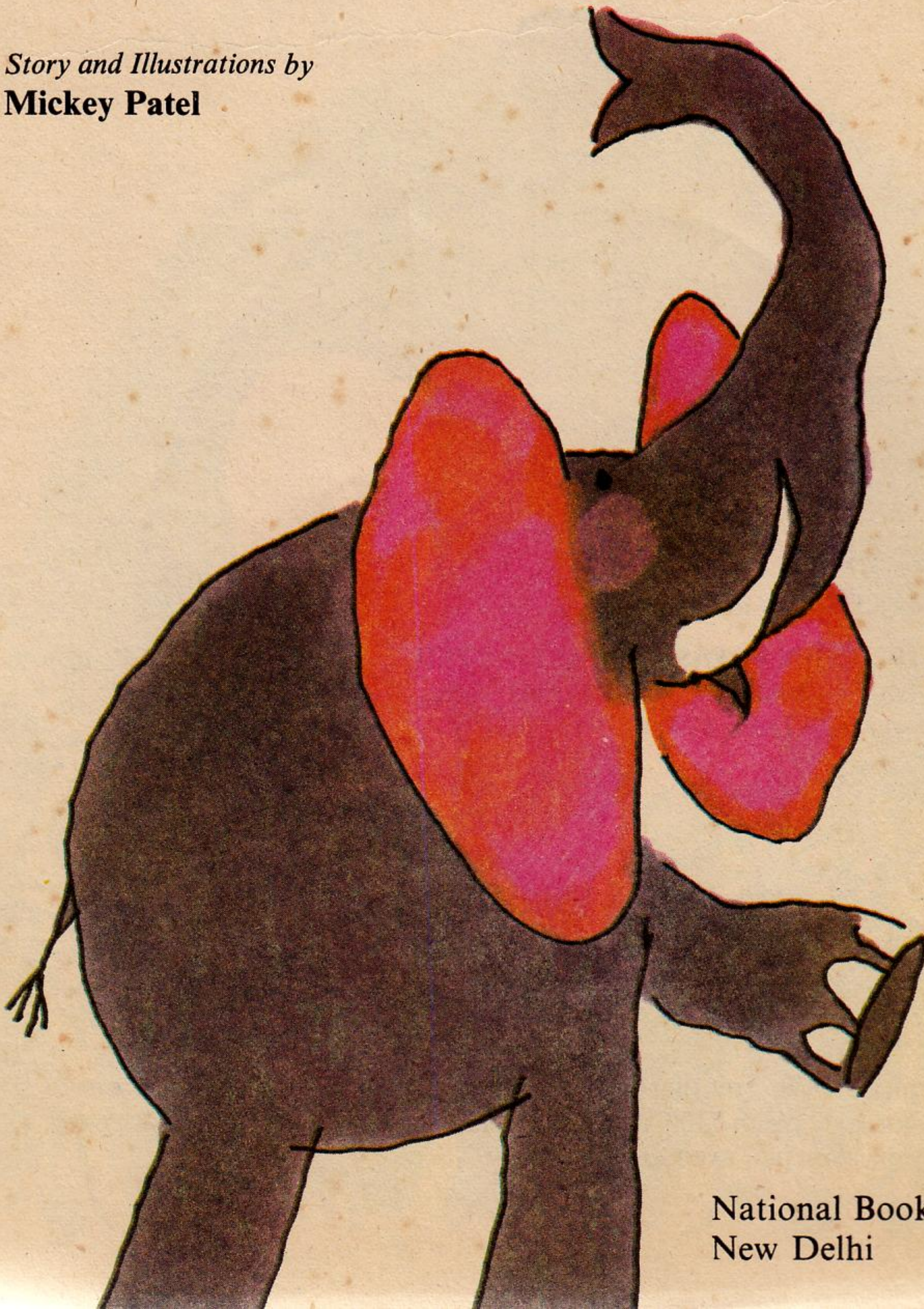
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# RUPA, THE ELEPHANT

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Chinchi, the little brown bird, knew all  
the animals in the zoo.









Her best friend was Rupa,  
the Elephant, who gave rides to the  
children on Sunday mornings.  
Sometimes Chinchi sat on Rupa's ear  
and rode along with the children  
to visit the animals.









But, today, what did Chinchí see?  
Rupa, the Elephant, was sighing and sobbing.  
She stood in a corner while tears  
rolled down her cheeks into the grass.  
“Why, Rupa, whatever is the matter?”  
chirped Chinchí.









“I am s-so-so drab and ug-ugly,”  
sobbed Rupa. “I am just a g-g-grey, fat tub.”  
“Silly Rupa! Don’t cry,” said Chinchí,  
“I’ll soon find a way of making you bright  
and pretty.” And off she flew.





Chinchi went to the Tiger.

“Good morning, Tanu Tiger.

Rupa is feeling sad and grey.

Please lend her your nice, gay stripes,” she chirped.













She flew to Sonu, the Leopard.  
“Will you please give your bright, shiny  
spots to Rupa?” she asked.





Chinchi spoke to Raja, the Peacock  
and Mittu, the Parrot. "Will you give your  
pretty colours to Rupa?" she asked.









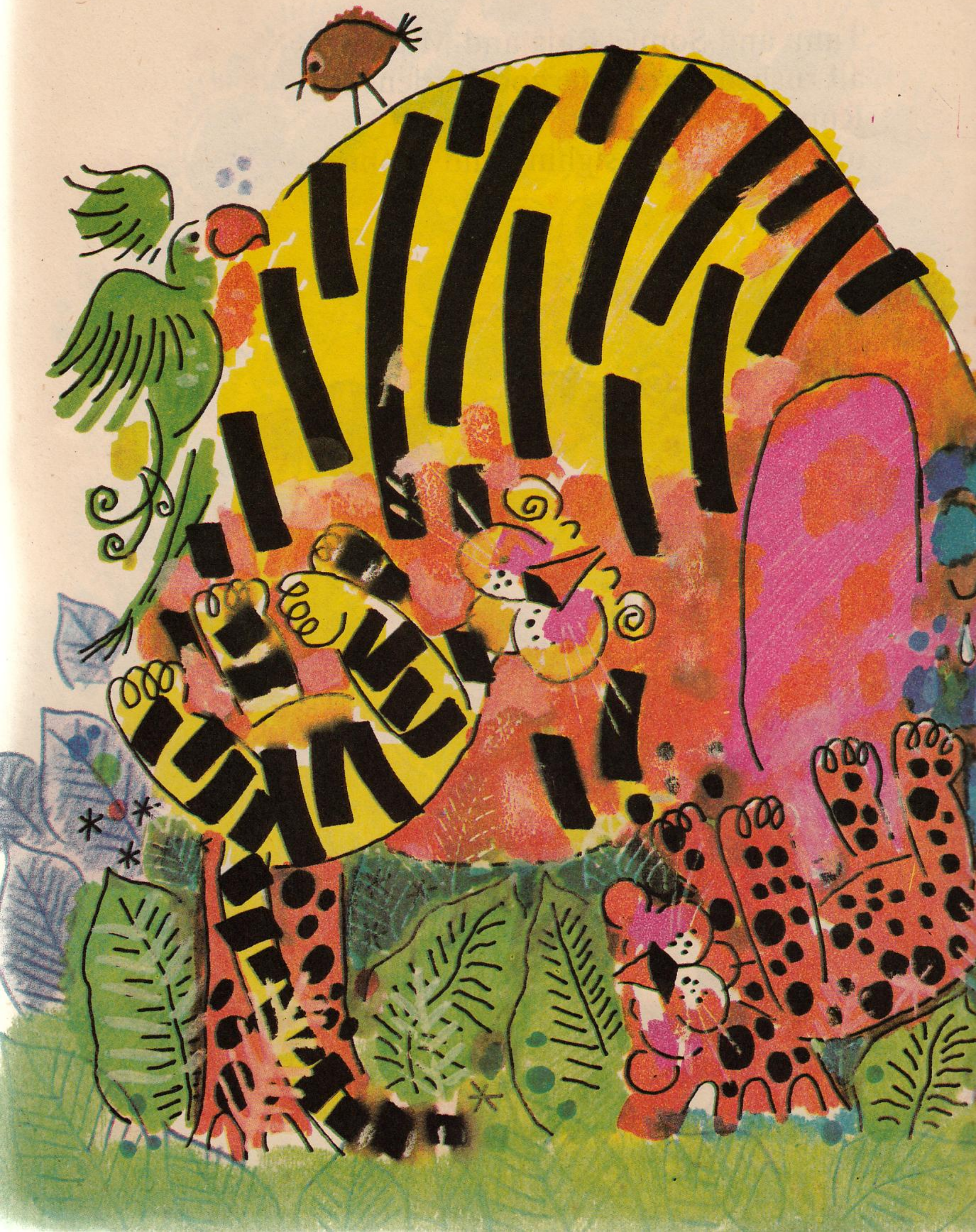




Tanu and Sonu, Raja and Mittu  
all rushed across the zoo gardens to  
Rupa, the Elephant, who stood  
in a corner, still sighing and sobbing.









They began giving their colours to Rupa.  
Tanu slid down one side of Rupa leaving a wide  
band of yellow-and-black stripes on the way.  
Sonu rubbed off her spots on to Rupa's legs.  
Mittu put gay, green streaks on her tail and  
Raja left shiny blue-and-purple patches  
all down her trunk.









Rupa stopped crying. She looked at herself all round.  
She was so proud and happy.

“Oh, I am as pretty as a wedding *shamiana*,” she said.

“Won’t the children love me !”









The next day, the children came to the zoo for their elephant ride. But, goodness, what had happened!

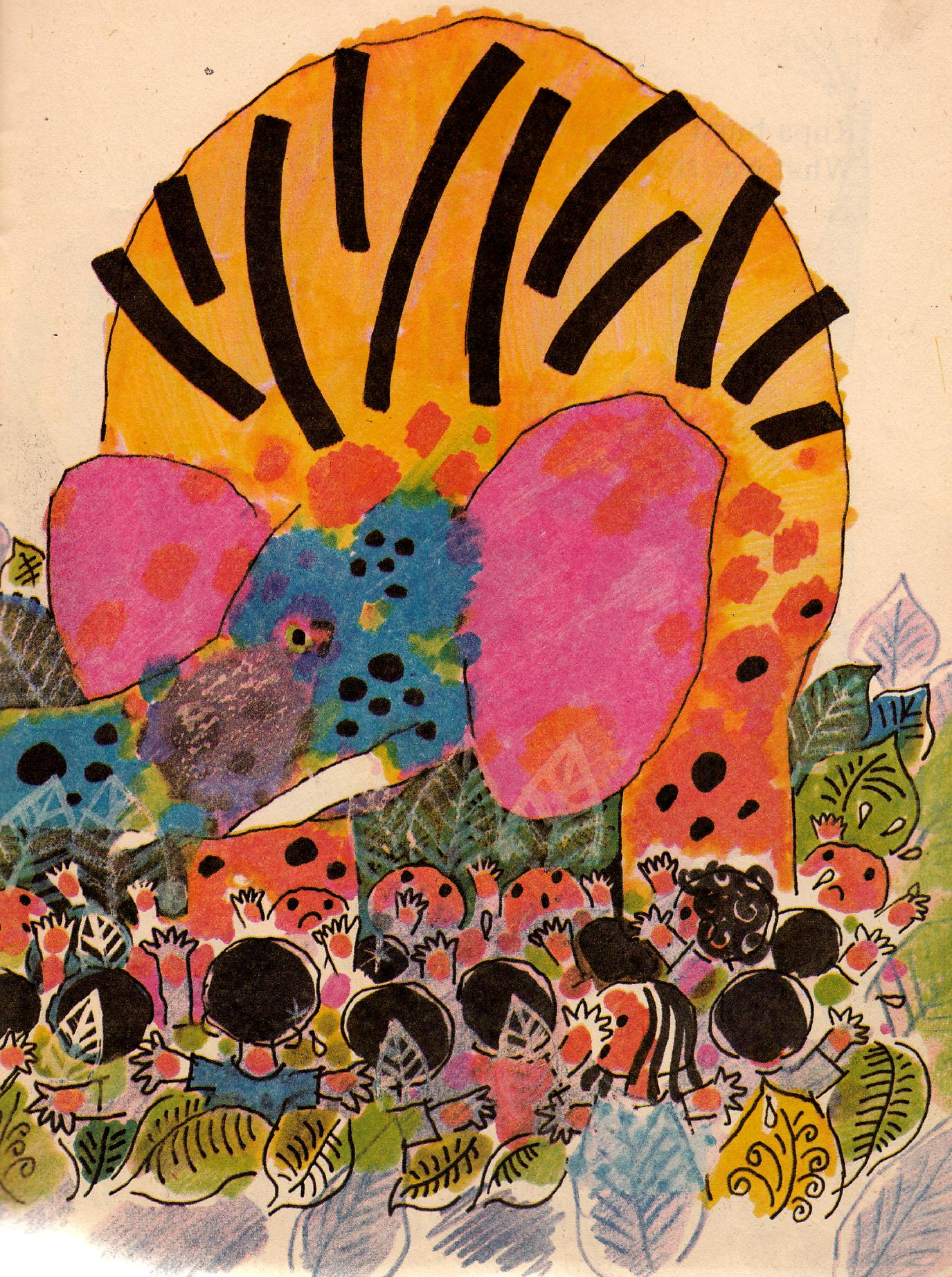




Where was their nice, grey Rupa?  
Who was the ugly, patchy, dotty, stripy  
monster standing there?  
Some of the little ones were frightened.  
“Boo, hoo!” they cried.  
“Go away you ugly thing.  
We want our Rupa!”









Rupa burst into tears.  
What was she to do now?







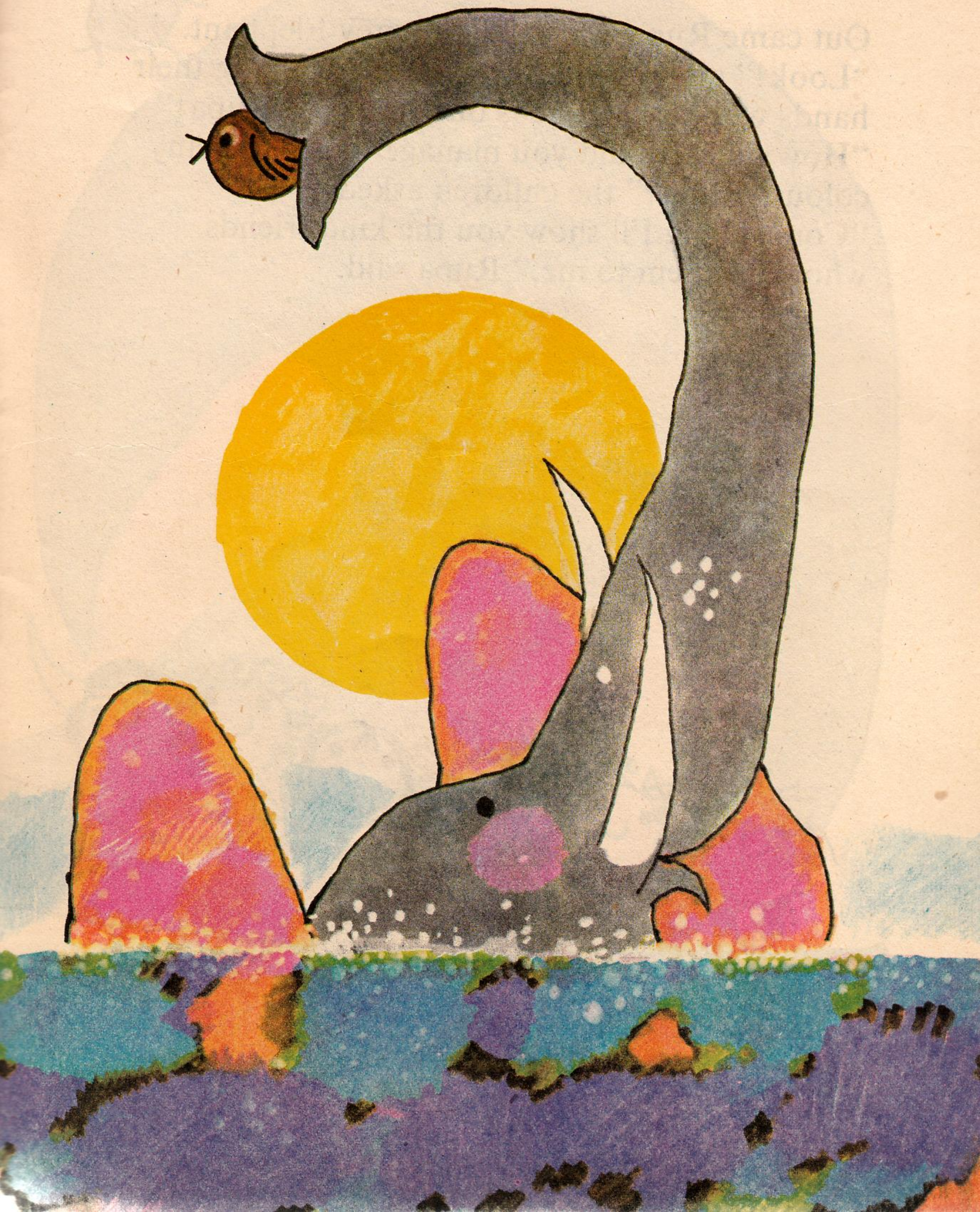


Then she had a bright idea. She quickly jumped into a lily-pond. Swoosh! Swoosh! She splashed water all over herself with her trunk.

All the colours—yellow, green, blue and purple—and the stripes and spots were washed off.





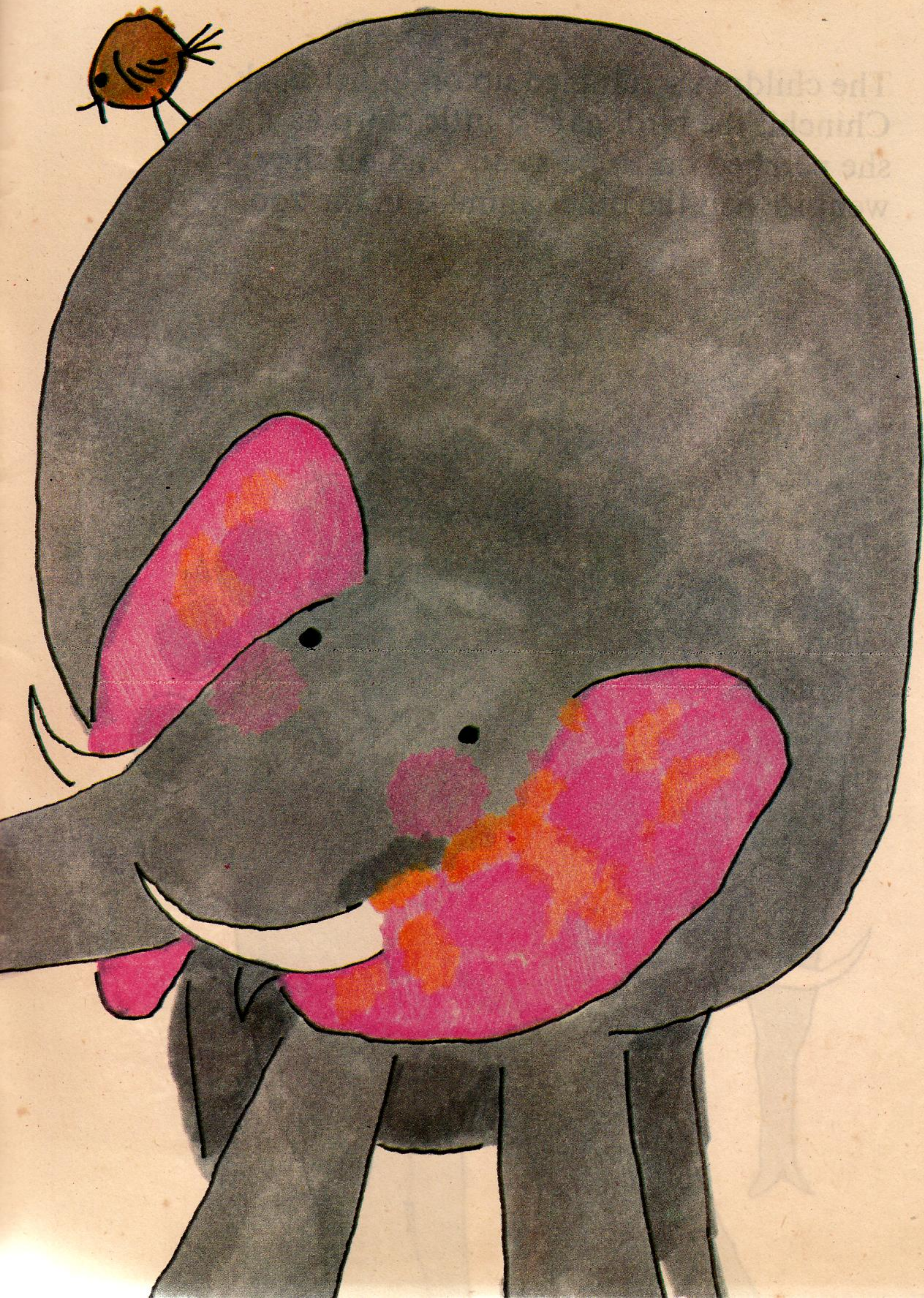




Out came Rupa, a nice, plain, grey Elephant.  
“Look!” cried the happy children clapping their  
hands with joy. “Here is our very own Rupa!”  
“How on earth did you manage to get so many  
colours Rupa?” the children asked.  
“Come along I’ll show you the kind friends  
who gave them to me,” Rupa said.









The children scrambled up on to her back.  
Chinchi, the bird, gave a little chirp as  
she perched on Rupa's ear. And off they  
went to visit the other animals in the zoo.

